

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBO-01 A-01 MMS-03 ABF-01 PER-05 INR-10

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P 051140Z JUN 74K

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7101

CONFIDENTIAL BLANTYRE 724

STADIS//////////

FOR AF/EX AND AF/E

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, ABLD, AFSP

SUBJ: DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IN MALAWI

REF: STATE 116705

1. EMBASSY HAS COMMENCED STUDY OF CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS NOW DECISION TAKEN THAT DAO WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN MALAWI. HOWEVER BEFORE MAKING PROPOSALS FOR HOUSING AND REQUESTING ARCHITECT PERFORM FURTHER WORK, RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT EXPLORE URGENTLY WITH DOD/DIA POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING DAO STAFF MALAWI BY ONE ENLISTED MAN, MAKING COMPLEMENT ONE OFFICER, ONE EM. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING THIS REDUCTION ARE:

A. GENERAL DESIRABILITY: SINCE 1969 AMERICAN COMPLEMENT OF EMBASSY BLANTYRE HAS DIMINISHED UNDER VARIOUS REDUCTION PROGRAMS FROM 32 TO 12. DURING SAME PERIOD DAO AMERICAN STAFF HAS INCURRED NO REDUCTION. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF INCREASED CONCENTRATION AND THUS VISIBILITY OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION PERSONNEL IN LILONGWE, BELIEVE REDUCTION OF DAO COMMENSURATE WITH PAST EMBASSY REDUCTION IS IN ORDER AND HIGHLY DESIRABLE AT THIS TIME. FROM POST'S OBSERVATION, ONE EM HYPERADEQUATE IN TERMS DAO'S SMALL WORKLOAD. REDUCTION

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APPEARS ALSO IN LINE WITH SENATE FRC AMENDMENT CALLING FOR

10 PERCENT DAO SYSTEM REDUCTION WORLDWIDE.

B. CHANCERY SPACE: FAIL TO UNDERSTAND APPARENT DAO REQUIREMENT FOR 900 GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE IN CHANCERY. DAO PRESENTLY OCCUPIES 425 FEET BLANTYRE OFFICES PLUS 100 SQUIRE FEET "HOBBY SHOP", TOTAL 525 SQ. FEET. PRESENT SPACE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE. BY ELIMINATING PROPOSED CONFERENCE ROOM IN NEW CHANCERY AND INCORPORATING ADJOINING SPARE OFFICE INTO DATT COMPLEX, POST CAN ACCOMMODATE DAO INCLUDING WORKSHOP WITHIN 720 SQUARE FEET. BELIEVE THIS MORE THAN ADEQUATE, ESPECIALLY IF DAO COMPLEMENT IS TWO VICE THREE. EXTRA EXPENSE OF ELONGATION OF BUILDING THEREBY ALSO ELIMINATED.

C. HOUSING: AS AF/EX AWARE, COST OF HOUSING IN LILONGWE IS FIERCE. ELIMINATION ONE DAO POSITION WOULD SAVE CONSERVATIVE \$6,000 COST PER ANNUM INCLUDING RENT AND UTILITIES BUT NOT INITIAL FURNISHINGS. FYI - AS INDICATOR DIA CONCERN OVER COSTS, DIA MESSAGE MARCH 8, 1974, INFORMED DATT THAT ALL PROPOSALS FOR NEW LEASES WITH COSTS EXCEEDING DOLS 625 MONTHLY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO SECDEF FOR "PROPER REVIEW". END FYI.

D. FYI - DATT HAS INDICATED IN CONFIDENCE THAT DIA MAY WELL LAY HANDS ON ONE OF HIS POSITIONS ANYWAY DUE TO NEED OPEN NEW DAO IN DAMASCUS OR ELSEWHERE. SUGGEST FOREGOING ARGUMENTS MAY FIND RECEPTIVITY IN DOD/DIA IN THAT THEY SUPPORT REALLOCATION OF DIA MANPOWER ALREADY UNDER CONSIDERATION. END FYI.

2. WILL APPRECIATE DEPT'S VIEWS ON RECOMMENDED REDUCTION WHICH ASSUME WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED WITH AMB-DESIGNATE. FARBER

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